

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) An antimicrobial composition, comprising an antimicrobial effective amount ~~Use~~ of a mixture of two, three or more straight-chain 1,2-alkanediols, the chain lengths of which (i) are different and (ii) in each case are in the range of 5 to 10 C atoms, ~~as antimicrobial active compound.~~
2. (currently amended) The antimicrobial composition ~~Use~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the proportions of the said diols in the mixture are set such that their antimicrobial action is synergistically intensified.
3. (currently amended) The antimicrobial composition ~~Use~~ according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the mixture contains 1,2-hexanediol and one, two or three further straight-chain 1,2-alkanediols, the chain length of which in each case is in the range of 5 to 10 C atoms.
4. (currently amended) An antimicrobial composition comprising an antimicrobial effective amount ~~Use~~ of a mixture of
 - (a) 1,2-hexanediol and 1,2-octanediol,
 - (b) 1,2-hexanediol and 1,2-decanediol,

(c) 1,2-pentanediol, 1,2-hexanediol and 1,2-octanediol,

(d) 1,2-hexanediol, 1,2-octanediol and 1,2-decanediol
or

(e) 1,2-pentanediol, 1,2-hexanediol and 1,2-decanediol
as antimicrobial active compound, the proportions of the
said diols in the mixture being set such that their
antimicrobial action is synergistically intensified.

5. (currently amended) The antimicrobial composition ~~Use~~
according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1, wherein the
proportion of each individual diol is in the range of 1 to
99% (m/m), preferably in the range of 20 to 80% (m/m),
based on the total mass of the mixture of the diols.

6. (currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ for the cosmetic
and/or therapeutic treatment of

(a) microorganisms causing body odour,

(b) microorganisms causing acne and/or

(c) microorganisms causing mycoses,

said method comprising the topical application of an
antimicrobially effective amount of a mixture of two, three
or more straight-chain 1,2-alkanediols, the chain lengths
of which (i) are different and (ii) in each case are in the
range of 5 to 10 C atoms,

wherein the proportions of the said diols in the
mixture are set such that their antimicrobial action is
synergistically intensified.

7. (currently amended) An antimicrobial composition comprising an antimicrobial effective amount Use of a mixture of two, three or more straight-chain 1,2-alkanediols, the chain lengths of which (i) are different and (ii) in each case are in the range of 5 to 10 C atoms, wherein the proportions of the said diols in the mixture are set such that their antimicrobial action is synergistically intensified,
- (a) for the cosmetic treatment of microorganisms causing body odour,
 - (b) for the cosmetic treatment of microorganisms causing acne,
 - (c) for the cosmetic treatment of microorganisms causing mycoses,
 - (d) for the treatment of microorganisms on or in inanimate material or
 - (e) for the preservation of a perishable product.
8. (currently amended) An antimicrobial composition comprising an antimicrobial effective amount Use of a mixture of two, three or more straight-chain 1,2-alkanediols, the chain lengths of which (i) are different and (ii) in each case are in the range of to 10 C atoms, for the preparation of an antimicrobially active pharmaceutical agent, wherein the proportions of the said

diols in the mixture are set such that their antimicrobial action is synergistically intensified.

9. (currently amended) An antimicrobial composition Use according to Claim 1 ~~one of Claims 1-8~~, wherein an antimicrobial active compound is used as a further constituent of the mixture in an amount at which the antimicrobial action of the alkanediol mixture is synergistically intensified, the further antimicrobial active compound not being a straight-chain 1,2-alkanediol.
10. (currently amended) An antimicrobial ~~Antimicrobial~~ composition, comprising:
- (a) as antimicrobial active compound, a mixture of two, three or more straight-chain 1,2-alkanediols, the chain lengths of which (i) are different and (ii) in each case are in the range of 5 to 10 C atoms, and
 - (b) an excipient compatible with the said mixture and optionally
 - (c) a further antimicrobial active compound that is not a straight-chain 1,2[lacuna]alkanediol.